Title: Regarding creation of new Railway Zones of South and Western Railways.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recent creation of new railway zones, aimed at improving operational and administrative efficiency, had generated much hope for the people of my region − coastal Dakshina Kannada, especially the merger of Mysore Division of Southern Railway with the newly formed South-Western Railway with Hubli as its zonal headquarters.

Yet surprisingly, Kankanady Station (Mangalore) has still been left within the jurisdiction of Palghat Division of Southern Railway. Hubli being in Karnataka, it would lend geographical and linguistic affinity if Kankanady is brought within the newly-formed South Western Railway. The facilities of communication and easier access are other factors that prompt the inclusion of Mangalore (Kankanady) in the South-Western Zone.

I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to accede to this just request from the people of my region by making a suitable mention to this effect during his Railway Budget Speech, 2003.